

Appl. No. 09/473,323
Amdt. dated Nov. 4, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 4, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 12-16, and 30-33 have been amended. Claims 42-47 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Applicant retains the right to submit claims 42-47 in a divisional application.

Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, and 20. Examiner has objected to claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16, 18, and 21-41.

Examiner rejects base claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawagoe et al. #4,735,526 ('526). Examiner asserts that the '526 discloses "a jack-up platform 10 comprising legs 12 raised and lowered by a jacking system; mooring lines 38 radially spaced in plan on extremities of the hull; anchors 39 that are radially spaced and attached to the mooring lines; and tensioning system 37 for providing tension in the mooring lines 38."

Applicant respectfully traverses Examiners rejection and submits that claim 1 is neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the '526 patent. The '526 patent discloses a system for positioning a jack-up platform (Col. 1, lines 7-12; col. 4, lines 16-30) and does not disclose or suggest a mooring system, let alone a taut mooring system. Further, the '526 does not disclose a "tensioning system 37" but teaches utilizing winches 34, 35, 36, and 37 for "pulling, holding or slackening" cable 38 to maneuver structure 18 to a target. The structure 18 may then be installed. Column 2, lines 25-40.

The '526 patent does not suggest or teach utilization of mooring lines for structural support of the jack-up platform. Applicant has amended base claim 1 to clarify the "pretensioned" taut mooring lines. Applicant respectfully submits that base claim 1 is novel and unobvious and in condition for allowance. Claims 2-41 depend from base claim 1 and are therefore in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been amended by deleting a comma to be consistent with the other claims. Claims 12-16 and 30-33 have been amended to change "kevlar" to "Kevlar." The amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims and are made without requirement to correct formalities.

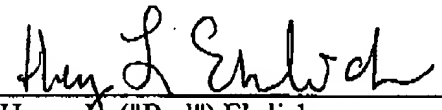
Appl. No. 09/473,323
Amdt. dated Nov. 4, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 4, 2003

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as originally submitted and amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant invites Examiner to contact the below named representative by phone to resolve any remaining issues. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.

November 4, 2003
DATE

Correspondence Address:
Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.
910 Travis Street, Suite 2400
Houston, Texas 77002-5895


Henry D. ("Bud") Ehrlich
Reg. No.: 39,663
Phone No.: 713-650-2778
Fax No.: 713-650-2400

HOUSTON 11685245\1
21964-P002US